

**MINUTES**  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL**  
**JULY 13, 2006**  
**HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

**PATTY GILBERTSON**  
**CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patty Gilbertson, Virginia Drug Court Association  
Del. David E. Poisson, House of Delegates  
Senator Mark R. Herring, State Senate  
Senator W. Roscoe Reynolds, State Senate  
Inge Tracy, Department of Corrections  
Rudi Schuster, Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Janice Hicks, Department of Health  
Ken Batten, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services  
Jennifer Johnson, Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
Chuck Walsh, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB)  
Jim May, Ph.D., VACSB  
Freddie Simons, Prevention Task Force, VACSB  
Hope Merrick, Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention  
James Ashton, Department of Education  
Will Williams, Substance Abuse Services Council, VACSB  
Mike Fragala, Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs (VADAP)  
Joseph Battle, Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA)  
Jennie Amison, Substance Abuse Certification Alliance of Virginia (SACAVA)  
Scott Reiner, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Zendra Relaford, Department of Social Services  
Lynette Isbell, Department of Social Services  
Angela Coleman, Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)

**STAFF:**

Mellie Randall, DMHMRSAS  
Lynette Bowser, DMHMRSAS  
Julie Truitt, DMHMRSAS  
Ishneila Moore, Office of the Attorney General

**Guest:**

Mark Blackwell, SAARA

**I. GREETING AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order and the chairperson asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

The Chair welcomed Julie Truitt, the new staff person assigned to work with the Council and welcomed Delegate Poisson and Senator Herring, both newly appointed members of the Council. She also welcomed Senator Reynolds.

## **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 29, 2006 MEETING MINUTES**

James Ashton asked that the minutes be corrected by changing his name from "John" to James under the attendees at the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 29th meeting. The motion was carried.

## **III. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business discussed by the Council.

## **IV. DISCUSSION OF 2006 ANNUAL REPORT (WORKING DRAFT)**

Ms. Randall stated that Council members should have received a draft copy of the report. She went over the process of how the document was drafted, noting that at the last meeting Council members developed the topic areas for the report. She reminded the Council that the report is due to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources by the first of September, and to be published in October. Members reviewed and discussed the draft of the 2006 report and plan by topic areas and made suggestions/comments.

### **NATURE AND SCOPE:**

- Jim May asked if something could be added regarding regional data such as primary drug of abuse, highest area for drug use or alcohol use, etc. which would show regional differences. Ms. Randall stated that she would check to see if this type of data is available;
- Include some about social indicators;

### **RECOVERY**

- Include something on recovery;
- Add a separate section on stigma;
- Include information on numbers of AA meetings and NA meetings in the state; and success stories of individuals who are members of those organizations;

### **CAPACITY**

- Add a section on capacity to address flat funding and declining capacity

### **FUNDING:**

- Adjust figure for prevention treatment;
- Add addendum that would provide an analysis of the positive impact of funding, prevention works to help support continuation of services;
- Include statement about targeting of funds to specific populations;

- Have separate item for prevention services and treatment services;
- On page 8 “state funding” this paragraph should be reworded to demonstrate that state funding comes from a variety of sources.
- Add a statement concerning how under funded services are;
- In Medicaid paragraph include how many states use Medicaid dollars for SA treatment;
- Under the private insurance paragraph address reimbursement mechanisms that are based on medical necessity or diagnostic necessity;
- Add information regarding how Synar requirements in the SAPT Block Grant affect the allocation;
- A suggestion was made to use graphics to simplify some of the information in the report;
- Include information on earmarked funds; clarify how those resources are allocated.

The Chair suggested the Council would for the sake of time, rather than review the draft section by section, skip to the conclusion/recommendations section of the draft and review those and as necessary, then go back to sections that need to be addressed.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Consider some formal method of how the Council is going to approach the issue of “stigma”; look at some of the strategies and goals on the national level; Mark Blackwell (SAARA) agreed to write the section on stigma/recovery imagining
- Provide consistency of this report with last year’s report by following up on what was accomplished from previous report;
- Acknowledge that Council recognizes that this is not a budget year and the report focuses on non-appropriation issues;
- Recommendations should reflect information reported in recurring trends section;
- Council should state what data it needs for next year’s report; this will allow Council to get this information in enough time to review for inclusion in the next report.

After discussion the Council reached a consensus that the recommendations for this year’s report should fall under five topics. The topics are:

- Capacity
- Insurance
- Stigma or Recovery Image
- Data and Evaluation
- Future Trends/Forecasting

The Chair stated that the draft report would be reorganized around the five major topic areas. Council members who have any suggestions, recommendations, language changes, etc. for the five topic areas should e-mail those to Ms Randall. The Council discussed SA recovery month and suggested a photo op with the Governor signing the proclamation would bring attention to the event.

**VI. SUMMARY OF THE STATE BUDGET AND IMPACT ON SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES**

Mr. Batten informed the Council that the majority of funds that were allocated to DMHMRSAS are in mental retardation and mental health. The one item that covered substance abuse is crisis stabilization services but it does not appear to be unique or specific to SA; the allocation will go to support crisis stabilization services throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Batten further stated that the only other unique item for SA is \$534,000 to fund two demonstration projects for buprenorphine, one in the southwest and the other in the Tidewater area.

The Chair stated that, in regards to drug courts, funds for the original 14 drug courts programs were funded. There were no funds for new programs.

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on August 8, 2006. A suggestion was made to hold the meeting in the Tidewater area.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Lynette T. Bowser